

Now, I'm not sure who came up with this. Obviously, the President's waving the bill around now, now that there's one printed, but he's advocating that you're better off financially—we'll reward you financially—if you'll just get divorced and live together. I'm not sure if that's his effort to placate people who want gay marriage to say, Look. You're financially better off not getting married, see? You've got an extra \$75,000, \$100,000 exemption if you'll just stay unmarried.

So why would you want to get married?

I don't know what his thinking was. I can't imagine why he would want to punish married people who are working hard and making this kind of money. But sure enough, that's in the President's bill.

Happy days.

He's had talks before about eliminating the alternative minimum tax, which was never meant to apply to the tens of thousands of people that it does. Well, guess what? On page 135, subsection (b) talks about additional amounts. Subsection (c) talks about the additional AMT amount. So we're going to add to the AMT. I know he said we were going to get rid of it, but actually, in his bill, where you really see what he's thinking, he adds to it.

Now, the biggest help for independent oil producers is called the "deductibility of intangible drilling costs." These are the expenses of an independent oil company in producing a well; it's the costs of doing business. Any other manufacturer that produces a product is allowed to deduct the costs of doing business, but this President wants to demonize those things and call them what they're not. He calls them a subsidy. They're not a subsidy. A "subsidy" under any dictionary's definition is, in essence, a gift or a grant of money. There's no gift or grant of money to the people taking these deductions. They get to deduct the cost of producing oil and gas.

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And when you find out that over 94 percent of the oil and gas wells drilled on the land in the continental United States are drilled by independent producers, not Exxon, not Shell, not the President's dear friends at British Petroleum who were so ready to endorse the cap-and-trade bill, negotiating when to come out in favor of cap-and-trade the very day the Deepwater Horizon platform blew, losing lives, devastating the gulf.

But then at the same time giving the President a chance to punish States like Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi who had so many thousands of jobs lost when he declared a moratorium that it has cost this country dearly by rigs having to leave American waters and go to other countries. And does that hurt the big oil companies? No. It means there is less oil and gas being produced, which means they will charge more and make more profit.

So taking out the most important deduction for independent oil companies will devastate them, and it doesn't even apply to the major companies he says he's going after. So, once again, he says he's going after major oil, taking away their subsidies. Well, they're not subsidies. They're deductions for business expense.

And on the other, what he really does in black and white in the bill—nobody has to take my word for it—he repeals the deduction that only applies to oil companies that produce less than a thousand barrels of oil a day. It doesn't even apply to the majors. The majors don't get that. They're able to do such vast production that they can survive without it. The independent producers can't.

And a lot of people don't know like we do in East Texas where, during World War II, it was the largest oil field ever discovered in the world, but those, mainly wells still being drilled there, a lot of it for natural gas now, being drilled by independent producers, produce less than a thousand barrels a day. You can't go to a bank and get a loan to drill an oil or gas well. You can't. The odds are not good enough that it's going to be commercially productive.

So what most independents do, they'll say take 18, 25 percent, something like that of their own well that they're going to drill and then they will sell working interests in that well and get investors to put up their money, because if an independent oil producer supplies all the money for their own wells, they hit three or four dry holes, it's what puts some of them out of business. So they're smart enough, they spread out the risk, because it certainly is risk, and so they don't lose everything when it's a dry hole.

What section 435 does is devastate the ability to raise capital through investors investing because it repeals the oil and gas working interest exception to passive activity rules. So the working interests don't get the deductions passed through to them that they are normally allowed to do for the expenses they invest.

Any independent oil producer can tell folks—and I've heard it over and over—you take away people's ability to invest, to deduct for what they're paying in, they're not going to pay into that. The odds aren't too good, that oftentimes the money they get back—if it is a commercial well—just barely pays the amount of expenses. If you don't pass through the deductibility of what they paid in, then it's a huge loss to them. So you're not going to have people investing like they do now. And it is tough to raise capital. They'll tell you.

The President devastates an independent oil company's ability or gas company's ability to raise capital. This bill will devastate America. It's a great example of the President and Senate leadership saying we're going to do this

and they do something entirely opposite. Those who have ears need to hear.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

A BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on September 16, 2011 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 2887. To provide an extension of surface and air transportation programs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, September 26, 2011, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3217. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Veterinary Accreditation Program; Currently Accredited Veterinarians Performing Accredited Duties and Electing To Participate [Docket No.: APHIS-2006-0093] (RIN: 0579-AC04) received August 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3218. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Peppers From Panama [Docket No.: APHIS-2010-0002] (RIN: 0579-AD16) received August 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3219. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — European Larch Canker; Expansion of Regulated Areas [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0029] received August 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3220. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Asian Longhorned Beetle; Quarantined Areas and Regulated Articles [Docket No.: APHIS-2010-0128] received August 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3221. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Horses From Contagious Equine Metritis-Affected Countries [Docket No.: APHIS-2008-0112] (RIN: 0579-AD31) received August 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3222. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Display of DoD Inspector General Fraud Hotline Posters (DFARS Case 2010-D026) (RIN: 0750-AG98)